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JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AWARDS MORE THAN \$570,000 TO AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO COMBAT GANGS

CHICAGO – More than \$570,000 in federal funds have been awarded to a dozen area law enforcement agencies in several counties to combat gangs throughout the Northern District of Illinois, United States Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald announced today. The funding was awarded to the Chicago Police Department and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, in addition to 10 suburban agencies in Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane and Winnebago counties to address the migration of gangs from Chicago. The awards fall under the federally funded Anti-Gang Initiative, unveiled in 2006 by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The Anti-Gang Initiative's strategy is twofold: First, to prioritize prevention programs to provide America's youth and offenders returning to the community with opportunities that help them resist gang involvement; and second, to ensure robust enforcement policies when gang-related violence does occur. The cornerstone of the Justice Department program is an expansion of the successful Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) program, which is a comprehensive approach to reducing gun crime in America. By linking together federal, state and local law enforcement,

prosecutors and community leaders, PSN provides a multifaceted approach to deterring and punishing gun crime.

“The Anti-Gang Initiative builds on the successful partnerships within Project Safe Neighborhoods to address the gang violence plaguing our communities,” Mr. Fitzgerald said. “With these funds, we are able to augment the important work being done by our local law enforcement partners, while giving them innovative tools to pro-actively address gang migration to their respective communities. This funding illustrates the Department’s ongoing commitment to combating gun and gang violence,” he added.

Funding awards were made to the following agencies, all of which were invited to submit proposals because of identified gang activity in their communities and whose proposals illustrated an innovative approach to law enforcement. The awards were granted to:

Aurora Police Department:	Purchase of tracking devices and computer laptops
Carpentersville Police Department:	Purchase of a surveillance vehicle
DuPage County Sheriff:	Purchase of surveillance equipment, including devices for audio and video recording and night vision
Evanston Police Department:	Purchase of surveillance equipment, including cameras and night vision devices and radio earplugs
Kane County Sheriff:	Purchase of audio, video and GPS surveillance equipment
Lake County Sheriff, Waukegan Police and Lake County State’s Attorney	Hiring of a Lake County gang crime analyst
Palatine Police Department:	Purchase of portable surveillance equipment
Winnebago County Sheriff:	Purchase of surveillance vehicle and Nextel phones

The Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office and the Chicago Police Department received both Anti-Gang Initiative and PSN funding to support Chicago Police gun teams, which work with

federal Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) agents, throughout Chicago to enforce and investigate gun crimes. Funding allocated to the Northern District of Illinois in support of PSN and the Anti-Gang Initiative is congressionally awarded and dedicated to enforcement missions as well as prevention and reentry programs in the affected areas.

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